
From: Esposito, Bevin
To: McCool, Catherine
Sent: 7/29/2013 12:19:27 PM
Subject: FW: EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines for Monday, July 29. 2013

From: Grundahl, Nancy
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 10:53 AM
To: R3 EVERYONE; Howell, Amie
Subject: EPA Mid-Atlantic Daily Headlines for Monday, July 29. 2013

EPA Region III
Office of Public Affairs
Mid-Atlantic Headlines
Monday, July 29, 2013
***** DAILY HOT LIST *****

An EPA staff report suggests methane from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, contaminated wells near Dimock, Pa., but the agency says the water's safe to drink.

LA TIMES One year ago, the Environmental Protection Agency finished testing drinking water in Dimock, Pa., after years of complaints by residents who suspected that nearby natural gas production had fouled their wells. The EPA said that for nearly all the 64 homes whose wells it sampled, the water was safe to drink. Yet as the regulator moved to close its investigation, the staff at the mid-Atlantic EPA office in Philadelphia, which had been sampling the Dimock water, argued for continuing the assessment. In an internal EPA PowerPoint presentation obtained by the Tribune/Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau, staff members warned their superiors that several wells had been contaminated with methane and substances such as manganese and arsenic, most likely because of local natural gas production. The presentation, based on data collected over 4 1/2 years at 11 wells around Dimock, concluded that "methane and other gases released during drilling (including air from the drilling) apparently cause significant damage to the water quality." The presentation also concluded that "methane is at significantly higher concentrations in the aquifers after gas drilling and perhaps as a result of fracking [hydraulic fracturing] and other gas well work." Critics say the decision in July 2012 by EPA headquarters in Washington to curtail its investigation at Dimock over the objection of its on-site staff fits a troubling pattern at a time when the Obama administration has used the sharp increase in natural gas production to rebut claims that it is opposed to fossil fuels. In March 2012, the EPA closed an investigation of methane in drinking water in Parker County, Texas, although the geologist hired by the regulator confirmed that the methane was from gas production. In late June, the EPA dropped a study of possible contamination of drinking water in Pavillion, Wyo., despite its earlier findings of carcinogens, hydrocarbons and other contaminants in the water. "We don't know what's going on, but certainly the fact that there's been such a distinct withdrawal from three high-profile cases raises questions about whether the EPA is caving to pressure from industry or antagonistic members of Congress," said Kate Sinding of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. The EPA confirmed the authenticity of the presentation about the Dimock wells but said it was the work of one employee. "This presentation represents one [on-scene coordinator's] thoughts regarding 12 samples and was not shared with the public because it was a preliminary evaluation that requires additional assessment in order to ascertain its quality and validity," said EPA spokeswoman Alisha Johnson. "The sampling and an evaluation of the particular circumstances at each home did not indicate levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take further action," Johnson said. "Throughout EPA's work in Dimock, the agency used the best available scientific data to provide clarity to Dimock residents and address their concerns about the safety of their drinking water." At the same time, the energy industry and its congressional allies

have hammered the EPA for undertaking the studies, which they say are a pretext for regulatory overreach. "They have attempted to link fracking to water contamination in at least three cases, only to be forced to retract their statements after further scrutiny proved them to be unfounded," Rep. Lamar Smith. Other Duke scientists published in June indicates that drinking water wells near natural gas production in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Dimock, are at greater risk of methane contamination than those farther away. Methane is the primary component in natural gas.

EPA identifies 29 nonattainment areas for SO2 standard

GREENWIRE U.S. EPA has designated 29 areas in 16 states as "nonattainment" areas for being in violation of the national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide. The areas were found to be in violation of the 2010 SO2 rule, which set a limit of 75 parts per billion averaged over an hour. Those areas must now develop a state implementation plan within 18 months to reduce the pollution and get below the standard. In most areas, EPA said it has already accepted state recommendations. SO2, an air pollutant linked to outdoor haze and acid rain, can aggravate asthma and other respiratory problems. The nonattainment areas were spread across 16 states but had a heavy concentration in the Midwest. Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana each had five nonattainment areas, while Illinois had four, Missouri two and Iowa one. The designations came amid a potentially controversial change in EPA implementation, in which the agency indicated it would back away from its policy of relying mostly on computer modeling in favor of monitors. The "dual-pathway" model, which incorporates both computer modeling and monitors, created concern among some environmentalists about less accurate readings (*E&ENews PM*, Feb. 8). The monitors give more accurate readings but are more expensive and have limited availability, while computer modeling allows air agencies to use emissions data from previous years to characterize current air quality and estimate pollution in areas that may not have monitors.

State declares disaster status for 14 counties

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE The Clinton County commissioners received word Thursday that Gov. Tom Corbett has declared a disaster emergency for Clinton and 13 other counties. The proclamation came 29 days after the actual flooding. On June 26, high winds, severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, tornadoes and widespread flooding hammered parts of the state and caused extensive damage in the Beech Creek area of Clinton County. The declaration qualifies the state's Emergency Management Agency for \$200,000 to be used for its own disaster-related expenses and offers counties, local governments and individuals the possibility of assistance from state agencies and, depending on some factors, the potential for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration to make emergency repairs to businesses, homes and municipal infrastructure. There are three levels of disaster designation. A governor's proclamation allows state agencies wide latitude to provide assistance and relaxes contracting requirements; a Small Business Administration disaster declaration provides limited loan assistance to individuals and businesses following smaller events; and, a Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster or Disaster Emergency that involves a response from both state and federal resources. According to legislative aide Mitzi Gallagher, who attended the county government meeting, the state and federal agencies still are gathering numbers and assessing damages, with the "magic number" being \$17.2 million in damages for a federal disaster declaration. The other counties included in the proclamation include Allegheny, Centre, Clearfield, Crawford, Fayette, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Schuylkill, Venango, Washington and Wayne. The governor's declaration followed an unusual series of weather events that sparked two severe storms within a week's time, causing widespread flooding and property damage to some sections of central Pennsylvania. Beech Creek Borough and Beech Creek and Bald Eagle townships in Clinton County and Liberty Township in Centre County were particularly hard hit.

Maryland and Virginia residents say harm from climate change is arriving

WASHINGTON POST About half of Maryland and Virginia residents believe climate change is causing harm or will do so in the next 10 years (locally and/or nationally) according to two recent surveys. The Maryland survey reports 52 percent of Marylanders believe that the U.S. has already been harmed by climate change. By comparison, in the Virginia survey, 49 percent of residents say they believe climate change is already harming the state or will do so in the next 10 years. The surveys were released last week by the George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication. The Maryland survey, Public Health, Energy and Climate Change, reveals beliefs on different environmental hazards the public may view as unhealthy whereas the Virginia survey, Perceptions of Weather and Climate Change in Virginia, more broadly explores attitudes about climate change and links to extreme weather. Of the 2,126 Marylanders who were polled in the survey, respondents viewed air pollution as the highest personal health risk, coming in ahead of chemicals, the flu, and even obesity. Climate change ranked eighth. Despite the relatively low ranking for climate change, over half of the adults surveyed believe that violent storms are becoming a health problem, and 48 percent believe climate change is increasing the risk

Recycle, reuse, tax? Norfolk targets plastic bags

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT In an effort to slow landfill growth and protect 150 miles of coastline, city leaders have set their sights on a ubiquitous foe - the plastic bag. Norfolk is promoting reusable bags this fall in an effort to persuade residents to use fewer plastic bags, which are found everywhere from the grocery store to the sandwich shop. Norfolk backed a state Senate bill this year that would have placed a 5-cent tax on bags to discourage their use. The city plans to support the measure again next year, according to a City Council memo. The council also tried to persuade the legislature to allow cities to impose bag taxes of their own. The city is focusing now on encouraging residents to recycle plastic bags or, better yet, carry reusable bags. In September, a new environmental task force will distribute reusables at grocery stores, give civic league presentations and teach lessons in city schools, said Stephen Leaman, task force chairman. Denise Thompson, environmental protection programs manager, said using alternatives would save the city money and protect its waterfront. The latter issue sparked Leaman's interest. He sees plastic bags all the time near his Willoughby Spit home. The task force estimates that 8 to 10 percent of all plastic bags end up littering roads and waterways, and Leaman said a tax - or an outright ban - might be needed to get that percentage down to zero. A bag tax would first need an OK from the General Assembly, then the public's support and, finally, council approval. The idea hasn't fared well in Richmond, said John Deuel, executive director of Keep Norfolk Beautiful. And already, it has picked up some local opposition, including from the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. "The chamber has been opposed to a plastic bag tax for quite some time," said Lisa Jones, its communications director. "It adds to the price of groceries, and the tax is passed on to the consumer."

PENNSYLVANIA

LA TIMES

Internal EPA report highlights disputes over fracking and well water

An EPA staff report suggests methane from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, contaminated wells near Dimock, Pa., but the agency says the water's safe to drink.

WASHINGTON — One year ago, the Environmental Protection Agency finished testing drinking water in Dimock, Pa., after years of complaints by residents who suspected that nearby natural gas production had fouled their wells. The EPA said that for nearly all the 64 homes whose wells it sampled, the water was safe to drink. Yet as the regulator moved to close its investigation, the staff at the mid-Atlantic EPA office in Philadelphia, which had been sampling the Dimock water, argued for continuing the assessment. In an internal EPA PowerPoint presentation obtained by the Tribune/Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau, staff members warned their superiors that several wells had been contaminated with methane and substances such as manganese and arsenic, most likely because of local natural gas production. The presentation, based on data collected over 4 1/2 years at 11 wells around Dimock, concluded that "methane and other gases released during drilling (including air from the drilling) apparently cause significant damage to the water quality." The presentation also concluded that "methane is at significantly higher concentrations in the aquifers after gas drilling and perhaps as a result of fracking [hydraulic fracturing] and other gas well work." Critics say the decision in July 2012 by EPA headquarters in Washington to curtail its investigation at Dimock over the objection of its on-site staff fits a troubling pattern at a time when the Obama administration has used the sharp increase in natural gas production to rebut claims that it is opposed to fossil fuels. In March 2012, the EPA closed an investigation of methane in drinking water in Parker County, Texas, although the geologist hired by the regulator confirmed that the methane was from gas production. In late June, the EPA dropped a study of possible contamination of drinking water in Pavillion, Wyo., despite its earlier findings of carcinogens, hydrocarbons and other contaminants in the water. "We don't know what's going on, but certainly the fact that there's been such a distinct withdrawal from three high-profile cases raises questions about whether the EPA is caving to pressure from industry or antagonistic members of Congress," said Kate Sinding of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. The EPA confirmed the authenticity of the presentation about the Dimock wells but said it was the work of one employee. "This presentation represents one [on-scene

coordinator's] thoughts regarding 12 samples and was not shared with the public because it was a preliminary evaluation that requires additional assessment in order to ascertain its quality and validity," said EPA spokeswoman Alisha Johnson. "The sampling and an evaluation of the particular circumstances at each home did not indicate levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take further action," Johnson said. "Throughout EPA's work in Dimock, the agency used the best available scientific data to provide clarity to Dimock residents and address their concerns about the safety of their drinking water." At the same time, the energy industry and its congressional allies have hammered the EPA for undertaking the studies, which they say are a pretext for regulatory overreach. "They have attempted to link fracking to water contamination in at least three cases, only to be forced to retract their statements after further scrutiny proved them to be unfounded," Rep. Lamar Smith. Other Duke scientists published in June indicates that drinking water wells near natural gas production in northeastern Pennsylvania, including Dimock, are at greater risk of methane contamination than those farther away. Methane is the primary component in natural gas.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Blog: The Art and Science of Rain Barrels

Here's another update from the Energy Coordinating Agency, this time bringing you more information than you thought you needed about rain barrels, courtesy of ECA's Matthew Wilk. I had been working with Liz Robinson, Executive Director of the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) and a few other ECA staff members to coordinate displays for "The Art and Science of Rain Barrels"; an exhibit at the Environmental Protection Agency to raise awareness on the importance of managing storm water in Philadelphia. I was expecting a small, intimate gathering with just a handful of people, so when I walked into a room filled with teachers, children, artists, community members and executives of non-profits, all mingling and reading information on rain barrels, I was quite surprised! It was really incredible seeing people from all different walks of life all gathered together for a single cause. The entire room was filled with color – it was really remarkable seeing how fluidly everything had come together (no pun intended). There were hand painted rain barrels, informational videos, and large dioramas depicting the benefits of having a rain barrel in your home. I was shocked to learn about the monumental impact owning a rain barrel can make on our city. Philadelphia has a very small drainage system, and as little as a half inch of rain can fill the underground pipes to capacity. When this happens, the rainwater mixes with our sewage water and overflows directly into the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers as well as Frankford and Cobbs creek. Rain Barrels allow us to control the amount of water in our pipe system by storing it, and then redirecting it toward more fruitful applications. Liz Robinson said she uses the water she collects in her rain barrel to wash her car and to water plants. Rain Barrels repurpose water that would otherwise have a very destructive effect toward more positive and sustainable endeavors.

Ecobrews are a different kind of green beer - Sandy Bauers

The Art and Science of Rain Barrels

Read more at <http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/The-Art-and-Science-of-Rain-Barrels.html#kwU5HIhxSR3GQMj7.99>
The region's breweries have hit upon a new ingredient for their beers: environmental messaging. Their labels sing the praises of Delaware Bay oysters, pay homage to the headwaters of the Brandywine Creek, and highlight an aquatic insect that survives only in clean water. Many brewers also are donating a portion of the proceeds for stream restoration, land preservation, and other environmental projects. After Hurricane Sandy, it wasn't long before Flying Fish Brewing Co. in Camden County released its Forever Unloved Sandy brew (commonly referred to by its initials - F.U. Sandy) and donated proceeds to recovery work. A third of it - \$15,000 - went to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, a nonprofit that, until then, was hard-pressed for funds to repair protective turtle fencing and rebuild osprey nesting platforms at the Shore. It's all about their prime ingredient, the brewers say. Beer is 92 to 94 percent water, and the cleaner it is, the better the brew. So their largesse is also about self-preservation.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Drilling's benefits in Western Pennsylvania

I grew up in Western Pennsylvania, am a graduate of Norwin High School and California University of Pennsylvania and have been working in the natural gas industry for three years. I want the overall negative stigma given to the oil and gas industry to stop. I have seen lives changed because of the drilling in our region (which has been going on locally since the 1870s). A farmer who was close to losing his family farm because it was not generating enough money was able to come back and flourish because of natural gas leases and wells. A family couldn't afford to heat their old farmhouse, but because of the natural gas well they had, and the free gas usage that was included, they were able to do so. This industry has changed my life, allowing me to get out of the crippling debt I piled on while in college. So many local jobs have been created because of natural gas drilling. You don't hear these types of positive stories in the media. The media use scare tactics to make people, some of whom don't have any stake in drilling, scared to drink their tap water (many water tests have been done to make sure water is safe).

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

More losses at Consol; company hints at job cuts

Job cuts and major changes could be coming to Consol Energy Inc., which unleashed a storm of gloomy buzzwords when announcing mounting losses on Thursday. The company is “evaluating our overall corporate structure,” looking to get “creative” and, maybe gloomiest of all, reviewing “staffing levels and project expenditures,” Consol said. Company officials would not directly address whether they intend to cut jobs but said they are willing to go far to boost the company's sinking share price. Consol's waterway shipping and pipeline businesses are for sale, and CEO J. Brett Harvey wouldn't rule out splitting up its coal and gas businesses again. “What I'm trying to signal to our shareholders is, everything is on the table. ... We're serious about it,” Harvey told analysts in a quarterly earnings call. “And the process of looking at all of our asset base is like any process — creativity comes out of that, and we're in the middle of that right now.” The Cecil-based coal and gas company has lost nearly \$14.6 million in the first six months of the year on \$2.5 billion in sales. It lost money for the third time in the past four quarters, 5 cents per share from April through June, compared to profits of 67 cents a share during the same three months in 2012.

Woodland Hills could consider new purpose for Westinghouse atom smasher

Woodland Hills Acting Superintendent Alan N. Johnson has a dream and a vision that involves the world's first industrial atom smasher. He hopes to get initial approval from the school board to pursue a plan and funding to convert what is left of the particle accelerator that Westinghouse Electric Corp. built in 1937 along the Forest Hills-Chalfant border, into an educational center. He plans to broach the subject with his bosses Aug. 14. “Everything is doable. We just have to figure it out,” Johnson said. “But we believe this is such an important project here that provides such an opportunity.” Since learning the history in February of the light bulb-shaped orb that towers above Route 30, a chance to partner with Dream Flight Adventures of Regent Square offers the most promise to date for the project, Johnson said.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

Klaber to Step Down from Marcellus Shale Coalition

Pennsylvania's top natural gas trade group is looking for a new leader. The Marcellus Shale Coalition announced on Friday that the current CEO Kathryn Klaber, will be leaving the organization after four years. The MSC was formed by a group of Marcellus Shale producers in late 2009, to be the public face of the state's burgeoning energy industry. Klaber has directed the organization since its inception. Its staffers work to influence drilling-related legislation, host the annual “Shale Insight” conference in Philadelphia, interact with the press, and promote the benefits of gas drilling. Its members were heavily involved in shaping the state's new drilling law, Act 13. Klaber earned her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Bucknell University. She worked previously at the consulting firm Environmental Resources Management, led the Pennsylvania Economy League, and before taking the job at the MSC, was an executive vice president at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. “Pennsylvania is now producing nearly 10 percent of the nation's natural gas,” said Klaber in a press release. “Our industry's work has been described as ‘revolutionary’ and ‘game-changing’”. The work of the MSC, collaborating with public officials, has helped create the climate for growth of an industry that has delivered on its promises to create American jobs, increase our energy security, while holding safety and environmental performance as paramount.”

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Arsenic found in soil on Sleighton School property

An environmental issue — arsenic in some of the soil on the former Sleighton School property, which Toll Brothers proposes for an age-restricted community of 397 units — was discussed at a special afternoon session of the supervisors. Attending along with representatives of the developer and Sleighton Inc. were Middletown officials, since the 280-acre property on West Forge and Valley roads straddles both townships. Included are about 106 acres in Middletown and 173 acres in Edgmont. Of the Edgmont portion, 116 acres are subject to a preservation easement and are restricted from development. Andrew Semon, Toll Brothers division president, said because there were orchards and agricultural activities on some of the property, soil contamination was suspected, due to the use of pesticides with lead and arsenic was prevalent in the early to mid-1900s. He said that as a matter of “environmental due diligence,” Toll conducts soil studies on each property it proposes to develop, since arsenic is a naturally occurring element in rocks and soils. Its discovery in soil is not unusual, he added. Geologist Terry O’Reilly of TriState Environmental Management Services Inc. in Bensalem, Toll’s environmental consultant for 15 years, said tests were conducted on 15 different areas in both townships. Included was a 15-by-40-foot greenhouse on the Middletown portion. Based on historical records of the land’s agricultural past, aerial photos and soil testing, the study identified 10 areas of higher arsenic concentration than criteria set by the state Department of Environmental Protection. “DEP’s criteria is 12 parts per one million. Our average was from the mid to upper 20s,” said Reilly, later adding that one area tested at 118 parts per million.

EPA rules challenge refineries’ viability

Credits for compliance may be costing the local refineries dearly, even potentially placing their operations in peril. Legislators, corporate and union officials have once again converged, this time to motivate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy to take action to stabilize pricing on a compliance credit called Renewable Identification Numbers. The Renewable Fuel Standard was enacted in 2005 under President George Bush and required refiners to blend a minimum amount of renewable fuel with gasoline and diesel. Various targets must be met by certain times and are calculated based on a credit system. These credits can be traded among various entities. Yet, as more ethanol has been blended into gasoline and diesel, the supply of these credits has decreased, causing prices to soar from 2 to 4 cents a gallon last year to \$1.37 Wednesday. “It’s literally putting the sustainability of the refinery back in jeopardy,” said Jim Savage, president of the United Steelworkers Union Local 10-1. His refinery in Southwest Philadelphia was one of three slated to close in September 2011 as Sunoco Inc. officials announced their intent to exit refining. Also in jeopardy were the Marcus Hook plant and ConocoPhillips’ Trainer facility. At risk were thousands of jobs and more than \$500 million in state and local tax revenues. Parties from various contingents — local and federal government, union and corporate representatives and community members — came together to find solutions to preserve the facilities. By mid-summer last year, Philadelphia Energy Solutions had been formed as a joint venture of The Carlyle Group and Sunoco Inc. to run the Philadelphia refinery, and Delta Air Lines had purchased the Trainer site. The Marcus Hook refinery closed and is being refitted by Sunoco Logistics to correlate to the Marcellus Shale capabilities.

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Breakwaters perform well

During its first year in action, the system of 55 breakwaters at Presque Isle State Park, completed in 1992 at a cost of \$18.4 million, ably defended beaches from the barrage of Lake Erie.

Enviro camp teaches students research skills

One group has been studying the habitats of brown bullheads while another was examining invasive plants.

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Why Franklin & Marshall College's new 44-acre Spalding Conservancy is off-limits to the public

Prairie flowers are blooming and water has filled newly created wetlands at Franklin & Marshall College's new Keith and Dorothy Spalding Conservancy, which is on the college's forested Baker Campus in Manheim Township. However, the beneficiaries of the 44-acre "urban conservancy," its trails and 600-foot boardwalk through the wetlands will not include the general public, as envisioned when the project was announced in 2010. Instead, the college has decided to restrict use to students and faculty doing environmental research and residents bordering the property who have used it for years. "The college, after careful consideration, has decided to limit access to researchers," said Julia Ferrante, college spokeswoman. "Our primary concern is to ensure the outdoors laboratory is protected. "We're really excited because this conservation area will give opportunities for research and enhance the Little Conestoga watershed." The property is commonly known as

the "brickyard" and was the former manufacturing site of Lancaster Brick Co. F&M, under then college president Keith Spalding, purchased the property in 1981. Athletic fields were built on part of it. The overgrown wooded part has been used informally by the public for years.

LA TIMES

LA Times: EPA Not in Agreement Over Dimock

Regional officials with the Environmental Protection Agency based in Philadelphia did not agree with EPA's national office to close the investigation on water contamination in Dimock, according to a piece published in Sunday's Los Angeles Times. An internal Power Point presentation leaked to the Times shows at least one staffer at Philadelphia's region 3 office linked contaminants such as methane, arsenic and manganese to nearby gas drilling. Yet as the regulator moved to close its investigation, the staff at the mid-Atlantic EPA office in Philadelphia, which had been sampling the Dimock water, argued for continuing the assessment." The Times article doesn't say who at region 3 wanted to continue the investigation, nor did it describe their role in the process. One question seems to hinge on whether or not the methane detected in the water wells came from shallow formations, or bears the imprint of the deeper Marcellus Shale gas. But Region 3's assessment seems to agree with the investigation carried out by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection back in 2009, finding Cabot Oil and Gas responsible for methane migration in ten Dimock water wells. The presentation, based on data collected over 4 1/2 years at 11 wells around Dimock, concluded that "methane and other gases released during drilling (including air from the drilling) apparently cause significant damage to the water quality." The presentation also concluded that "methane is at significantly higher concentrations in the aquifers after gas drilling and perhaps as a result of fracking [hydraulic fracturing] and other gas well work."

LA Times: EPA Censored Key Pennsylvania Fracking Water Contamination Study

A must-read Los Angeles Times story by Neela Banerjee demonstrates that - once again - the Obama administration put the kibosh on a key Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") groundwater contamination, this time in Dimock, Pennsylvania. Though EPA said Dimock's water wasn't contaminated by fracking in a 2012 election year desk statement, internal documents obtained by LA Times reporter Neela Banerjee show regional EPA staff members saying the exact opposite among friends. "In an internal EPA PowerPoint presentation...staff members warned their superiors that several wells had been contaminated with methane and substances such as manganese and arsenic, most likely because of local natural gas production," writes Banerjee. "The presentation, based on data collected over 4 1/2 years at 11 wells around Dimock, concluded that 'methane and other gases released during drilling (including air from the drilling) apparently cause significant damage to the water quality.' The presentation also concluded that 'methane is at significantly higher concentrations in the aquifers after gas drilling and perhaps as a result of fracking [hydraulic fracturing] and other gas well work,' Banerjee further explained. It's essentially a repeat of Steve Lipsky's water contamination by Range Resources in late-2010 in Weatherford, Texas. In that case, EPA conducted a taxpayer funded study, determined Range had contaminated his water, sued Range - and then proceeded to drop the suit and censor the study in March 2012.

LOCKHAVEN EXPRESS

Clinton County declared disaster by Corbett (Friday) LOCK HAVEN - The Clinton County Commissioners received word Thursday, 29 days after the actual flooding, that Pa. Gov. Tom Corbett has declared a disaster emergency for Clinton and 13 other counties. The proclamation followed a June 26 incident in which a weather pattern of high winds, severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, tornadoes and widespread flooding hammered parts of the commonwealth- and caused extensive damage to in the Beech Creek area of Clinton County. The declaration qualifies the state's Emergency Management Agency for \$200,000 to be used for its own disaster-related expenses, and offers counties, local governments and individuals the possibility of assistance from state agencies and, depending on some factors, the potential for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration to make emergency repairs to businesses, homes and municipal infrastructure. There are three levels of disaster designation. A governor's proclamation allows state agencies wide latitude to provide assistance and relaxes contracting requirements; a Small Business Administration disaster declaration provides limited loan assistance to individuals and businesses following smaller events; and, a Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster or Disaster Emergency that involves a response from both state and federal resources.

MORNING CALL

Woman's fight to keep power line out of Water Gap is personal

Nancy Shukaitis has lived most of her life a mile or two from the Delaware River in the woodlands the Lenni Lenape called the Minisink. Now, well into her ninth decade, Shukaitis is carrying on the work she began as a citizen and continued as an elected leader to protect a stretch of the Delaware River that remains nearly as wild as it was when the Lenape were its sole inhabitants. Shukaitis, who lives in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, is a sage voice in a rising chorus against a plan by PPL Corp. of Allentown and New Jersey's Public Service Electric and Gas to build a \$1.2 billion power line that would cut more than four miles through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. She and other conservationists contend the line, which would carry electricity from Berwick, Columbia County, to the Newark area, should be built along an alternate route outside the park or not at all. They also say the line, which is already under construction, will damage delicate ecosystems in the federally protected recreation area. Its 200-foot towers will spoil the park's natural setting, they say, and the sense of solitude visitors now enjoy. For Shukaitis, the fight is personal. As a homemaker raising a young family in the 1950s, she saw the farm where her father's family had lived for generations threatened by a plan to dam the Delaware River to control flooding. She joined a fight to stop the Tocks Island Dam and is widely credited as being instrumental in the project's 1975 defeat. But Shukaitis, like thousands of her neighbors, saw her ancestral land condemned by the government, which paid many only pennies on the dollar, to make way for the lake-size reservoir the dam would have created. The silver lining, Shukaitis said, was that when the dam project died, thousands of acres of condemned land became part of the 72,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

Klaber to Step Down from Marcellus Shale Coalition

Pennsylvania's top natural gas trade group is looking for a new leader. The Marcellus Shale Coalition announced on Friday that the current CEO Kathryn Klaber, will be leaving the organization after four years. The MSC was formed by a group of Marcellus Shale producers in late 2009, to be the public face of the state's burgeoning energy industry. Klaber has directed the organization since its inception. Its staffers work to influence drilling-related legislation, host the annual "Shale Insight" conference in Philadelphia, interact with the press, and promote the benefits of gas drilling. Its members were heavily involved in shaping the state's new drilling law, Act 13. Klaber earned her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Bucknell University. She worked previously at the consulting firm Environmental Resources Management, led the Pennsylvania Economy League, and before taking the job at the MSC, was an executive vice president at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. "Pennsylvania is now producing nearly 10 percent of the nation's natural gas," said Klaber in a press release. "Our industry's work has been described as 'revolutionary' and 'game-changing'. The work of the MSC, collaborating with public officials, has helped create the climate for growth of an industry that has delivered on its promises to create American jobs, increase our energy security, while holding safety and environmental performance as paramount." The Marcellus Shale Coalition has grown to include more than 40 energy companies, and several hundred companies with ancillary ties to the drilling industry. The Coalition plans to conduct a national search with the goal of having a new CEO in place by the end of the year. In the meantime, Klaber will remain through the fall and be involved in the transition.

SUNBURY DAILY ITEM

Editorial: Didn't ask, won't tell, not best policy

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection just became reason No. 2,761 that citizens are wary of what government is up to. Days before the DEP attended a public meeting on controversial tire-derived fuel plant in Union County, the agency received a letter for the Environmental Protection Agency — the big brother in Washington — advising the state group of concerns it had with the proposal. Among the concerns were the potential for underestimating emissions, higher than acceptable heating values, no boiler malfunction plan and compliance assuredness. At the public meeting a few days later, information in the letter was never brought up. The reason? No one asked. "Our role in the public meeting," DEP spokesman Dan Spadoni said, "was to explain the application review process and applicable regulations, which we did." Basically the meeting, DEP is saying, was to talk about how and where the En-Tire plant's proposal would be available for public consumption. The proposal is certainly something more than a few people wanted to see, and getting word out where it would be was an important task for DEP. But it was not the department's most important task, and therein lays the problem. On its website, the DEP says it's "mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from

pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment." There is little doubt DEP does the first part of that task very well, despite the views many passionate environmentalists who feel they aren't doing enough. The department has done study upon study on things like the health of the Susquehanna River, the air quality and more. It would seem, however, that DEP dropped the ball on the second part of its mission statement.

TIMES LEADER

Cartwright backs bill to eliminate fracking waste loophole

Proposal would force oil and gas companies to comply with standards enacted in 1980. U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright isn't opposed to fracking, he just wants to make sure it is done safely and with minimal risk to the environment. That was the message from the Moosic Democrat Friday afternoon following a press conference on a bill he is co-sponsoring that would close a loophole exempting oil and gas companies from having to comply with hazardous waste disposal standards enacted a generation ago. He was at pains to underscore the point after demonstrator Kurt Shotko greeted the gathering outside Cartwright's Wyoming Avenue office with a sign opposing hydraulic fracturing — commonly dubbed fracking — the process by which drillers pump large quantities of water, sand and chemicals into the earth to fracture rock to extract gas and oil. "It is not my purpose to end fracking in the United States," said Cartwright. "I see fracking as an opportunity for the U.S. to develop an energy source that creates a much smaller footprint than something like coal — an energy source that will help us to develop energy independence." Cartwright and Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., this week introduced the Closing Loopholes and Ending Arbitrary and Needless Evasion of Regulations (CLEANER) Act, which aims to eliminate a hazardous waste exemption that was added onto the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in 1980, Cartwright said. "We need to close this loophole so that oil and gas companies play by the same rules as everyone else," co-sponsor Huffman said in a press release.

Lyme disease puts bull's-eye on Pa. More than 5,000 cases reported across state last year

The Northeast has been ground zero for Lyme in the United States over the past 40 years. The disease takes its name from the Connecticut town where research into a cluster of cases came to national attention in the 1970s. It was there that what was initially believed to be rheumatoid arthritis in young people was tracked back to ticks, although it took several more years to identify the bacteria at the heart of the malady. Nationwide, the disease has blossomed in the Northeast and upper Mid-Atlantic, with lesser concentrations in the upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest and a scattering of cases elsewhere. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and parts of New York are among hardest-hit areas. "Lyme disease is a significant public health issue in Pennsylvania, with approximately 3,800 to 5,700 confirmed or probable cases reported annually in the past five years," said state Department of Health spokeswoman Kait Gillis. "We continue to be one of the leading states for Lyme disease nationwide," she added. Just over 5,000 confirmed and probable cases were reported across the commonwealth in 2012, Gillis said, including 52 in Luzerne County, 43 in Lackawanna County, 29 in Wyoming County, 70 in Monroe County and 28 in Schuylkill County. But officials also acknowledge that local statistics might be misleading, as the infection can be contracted somewhere other than where the victim lives, while figures reflect where it was reported.

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

\$350K well water study proposed for Bradford County (Friday) TOWANDA - A group of regional health care providers is seeking state funding to conduct a \$350,000 study of the quality of drinking water in private wells in Bradford County, which will investigate, among other things, the effects of Marcellus Shale drilling on well water. The Bradford County commissioners announced Thursday that they will write a letter of support for the health care providers' application for a \$250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to pay for the study. Guthrie Health, Geisinger Health System and Susquehanna Health are applying for the state funding to conduct the study, which they would do in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Bradford County Commissioner Daryl Miller said. The USGS will provide the technical leadership for the study and will also provide the other \$100,000 needed to pay for the study, said Curtis L. Schreffler, associate director of USGS' Pennsylvania Water Science Center. "I'm very excited about this study," Bradford County Commissioner Mark Smith said. The study would provide a "comprehensive assessment" of the ground water in Bradford County that is tapped by private water wells, which is a source of water whose quality is "largely unknown," according to a press release that the Bradford County commissioners issued on Thursday.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

US seeks data on fracking business from companies

Federal officials have contacted Halliburton Co. and Baker Hughes Inc. as part of an antitrust investigation into an oil and gas drilling process used in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Halliburton spokeswoman Beverly Blohm Stafford said Thursday that the company received what's called a civil investigative demand from the Justice Department's antitrust division during the April-to-June quarter regarding pressure pumping services and is responding to the request. "We understand there have been other participants in the industry who have received similar correspondence from the DOJ, and we do not believe that we are being singled out for any particular scrutiny," Stafford said. Baker Hughes disclosed the investigation regarding pressure pumping services in a regulatory filing late Wednesday. It says the Justice Department requested information under an antitrust law for two years' worth of material in late May. The Houston energy services company said that it was working with the government to provide the "documents and information," and couldn't predict where the probe would lead. "The Antitrust Division is investigating the possibility of anticompetitive practices involving pressure pumping services performed on oil and gas wells," said Department of Justice spokeswoman Gina Talamona. Neither company gave any details about the information requested by the government. Pressure pumping is part of the practice of fracking, in which water and chemicals are pumped under great pressure into a well to break open tight underground rock formations and allow the release of trapped oil and natural gas. The method is credited with greatly increasing U.S. production of gas from shale formations, which has led to a glut and low prices.

State declares disaster status for 14 counties

The Clinton County commissioners received word Thursday that Gov. Tom Corbett has declared a disaster emergency for Clinton and 13 other counties. The proclamation came 29 days after the actual flooding. On June 26, high winds, severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, tornadoes and widespread flooding hammered parts of the state and caused extensive damage in the Beech Creek area of Clinton County. The declaration qualifies the state's Emergency Management Agency for \$200,000 to be used for its own disaster-related expenses and offers counties, local governments and individuals the possibility of assistance from state agencies and, depending on some factors, the potential for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration to make emergency repairs to businesses, homes and municipal infrastructure. There are three levels of disaster designation. A governor's proclamation allows state agencies wide latitude to provide assistance and relaxes contracting requirements; a Small Business Administration disaster declaration provides limited loan assistance to individuals and businesses following smaller events; and, a Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster or Disaster Emergency that involves a response from both state and federal resources. According to legislative aide Mitzi Gallagher, who attended the county government meeting, the state and federal agencies still are gathering numbers and assessing damages, with the "magic number" being \$17.2 million in damages for a federal disaster declaration. The other counties included in the proclamation include Allegheny, Centre, Clearfield, Crawford, Fayette, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Schuylkill, Venango, Washington and Wayne. The governor's declaration followed an unusual series of weather events that sparked two severe storms within a week's time, causing widespread flooding and property damage to some sections of central Pennsylvania. Beech Creek Borough and Beech Creek and Bald Eagle townships in Clinton County and Liberty Township in Centre County were particularly hard hit.

1st step for private water well testing OK'ed

The Lycoming County commissioners unanimously approved a \$250,000 grant application that, if approved by the state, will be a locally unprecedented project to support a countywide groundwater quality monitoring project to establish a baseline for groundwater quality data for private water supplies. The first year would focus on testing 70 private water wells. The county hopes to make it a multi-year project to track water quality and quantity over the years, said Eric Moore, executive director of West Branch Regional Authority and chairman of North Central Source Water Protection Alliance. Those entities joined forces with Geisinger Health System, Susquehanna Health and the U.S. Geological Survey to design a private water wells sampling program, whose representatives were at Thursday's meeting. "This is a remarkable effort that's unprecedented in terms of what's being done and the partnership," Moore said. Moore said the effort began with the county's point source committee, which deals with Chesapeake Bay cleanup issues locally. The committee saw wide-ranging needs related to water quality, Moore said, which led to an October 2012 meeting with 25 state and federal representatives to discuss local water quality sampling. "We discovered we didn't have a lot of data about private water wells," Moore said, and there are 14,000 wells in the county. The effort will fill in the gaps of the knowledge base regarding what's in the groundwater, he said. It will go beyond the testing parameters of the state Department of Environmental Protection, Moore said. "There may be reason to look at lower levels (of volatile organic chemicals, for example) to look at long-term health impacts," he said.

Mansfield Regional Valley Group gets preliminary report on region's water needs

The Mansfield Regional Valley Group received a preliminary draft report on water supply planning from Frank Chlebnikow,

Senior Community Planning Specialist with Rettew Associates Inc., of Williamsport, during its meeting Thursday. The report focused on current and future water needs in the target area from Mansfield to Blossburg along Business Route 15, where there has been "lots of development along the corridor, some gas related," Chlebinikow said. "Mansfield borough supplies potable water to region, but limitations on the system translate into curtailing the region's ability to grow," he added. Development that has already or is in the process of going in - such as the new Dunkin' Donuts and a gas industry manufacturing business - are relying on private wells. At the request of the group, which has been meeting monthly for several months, Chlebinikow said he "came up with a water strategy to allow local officials to proceed with completed plans, (for housing, retail and manufacturing), but for which there has been no approved strategy that we could take to a funding agency to get a water line, or allow an interconnect between the borough and university." Ultimately it is the intent for all five municipalities which include Richmond, Putnam, Covington, Blossburg and Mansfield, to adopt this plan at some point in time, he added.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Maryland and Virginia residents say harm from climate change is arriving

About half of Maryland and Virginia residents believe climate change is causing harm or will do so in the next 10 years (locally and/or nationally) according to two recent surveys. The Maryland survey reports 52 percent of Marylanders believe that the U.S. has already been harmed by climate change. By comparison, in the Virginia survey, 49 percent of residents say they believe climate change is already harming the state or will do so in the next 10 years. The surveys were released last week by the George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication. The Maryland survey, Public Health, Energy and Climate Change, reveals beliefs on different environmental hazards the public may view as unhealthy whereas the Virginia survey, Perceptions of Weather and Climate Change in Virginia, more broadly explores attitudes about climate change and links to extreme weather. Of the 2,126 Marylanders who were polled in the survey, respondents viewed air pollution as the highest personal health risk, coming in ahead of chemicals, the flu, and even obesity. Climate change ranked eighth. Despite the relatively low ranking for climate change, over half of the adults surveyed believe that violent storms are becoming a health problem, and 48 percent believe climate change is increasing the risk

Commentary: Federal agencies not doing enough to build next generation of leaders

Every successful team has a solid bench. In the sporting world, the Washington Redskins were able to withstand Robert Griffin III's injuries because they had a capable back-up in Kirk Cousins. In the workplace, succession planning exists to ensure there are individuals who can step in when turnover in leadership occurs. To meet the complex challenges facing our government, agencies need to develop their own leadership bench for the Senior Executive Service (SES)—the career leaders who are central to the operation of every federal agency. A new report from my organization, the Partnership for Public Service, and McKinsey & Company examined the current state of talent development for the SES and found that agencies pay insufficient attention to identifying, developing, recruiting and selecting individuals for the SES—leaving our government's bench all too weak. The need to ensure that highly qualified individuals are being groomed to take over these critical executive roles becomes even more urgent with the significant number of SES retirements on the horizon.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Delaware ranks seventh in nation in solar power

Environment America Research & Policy Center released Lighting the Way: What We Can Learn from America's Top 12 Solar States, a new report highlighting a solar energy boom across the country. The report ranks Delaware seventh in the nation per capita for solar installations. Last year, solar capacity in Delaware grew by 41 percent, bringing it to a total of 44 megawatts.

“Encouraging solar power is the right thing to do for the environment and our economy,” said Delaware Gov. Jack Markell. “We are aggressively working toward a clean energy future in Delaware, demonstrating we can have both a strong economy and a healthy environment.” Solar is on the rise across the country. America has more than three times as much solar photovoltaic capacity as it did in 2010, and more than 10 times as much as it did in 2007. Also, the price of solar panels fell by 26 percent in 2012. Environment America attributes the solar boom to the leadership of Delaware officials and those in other leading states profiled in the report. “The sky’s the limit on solar energy,” said Rob Sargent, energy program director of Environment America. “We commend Delaware’s leadership on solar.” The report emphasizes that it is not availability of sunlight that makes states solar leaders, but the degree to which state and local governments have created effective public policy for the development of the solar industry. “Working closely with the local solar industry, Delaware has emerged as a national leader in solar energy by adopting progressive policies and programs that have led to a 25-fold increase in new solar installations since 2008,” said Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary Collin O’Mara. “Delaware’s commitment to solar energy is paying dividends in terms of cleaner energy, lower costs and new jobs for Delawareans.”

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Texas study shows water pollution near gas drilling

A new study by researchers in Texas has documented high levels of metals in drinking water supplies near natural gas production sites, a finding they say shows the need for more research into the impacts of the nation's gas-drilling boom. Elevated concentrations of arsenic, selenium and strontium were discovered in drinking water wells located closest to natural gas extraction sites, according to the study, by a team of scientists from the University of Texas at Arlington. Researchers did not pinpoint the exact source of the contamination, and said their findings were not strong enough to suggest "systematic contamination of groundwater" by the natural gas industry. "We suggest that episodic contamination by private water wells could be due to a variety of natural and anthropogenic factors such as the mobilization of naturally occurring constituents into private wells through mechanical disturbances caused by intense drilling activity, reduction of the water table from drought or groundwater withdrawals, and faulty drilling equipment and well casings," said the study, published online Thursday by the journal Environmental Science and Technology. The study is latest in a series of scientific assessments that are just beginning to examine the potential water quality impacts of a nationwide natural gas boom driven by technological advances in hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. "This study alone can't conclusively identify the exact causes of elevated levels of contaminants in areas near natural gas drilling, but it does provide a powerful argument for continued research," said lead author Brian Fontenot, a UT Arlington graduate who now works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dover plant finishes environmentally-conscious overhaul

NRG Energy, state and federal officials formally closed the book Friday on what had been Delaware’s last remaining “uncontrolled” coal-fired power plant, announcing the finish of a \$25 million overhaul of NRG’s steam and power complex in west Dover. The more-than-yearlong project removed from service an idled, 16-megawatt boiler that had operated almost entirely without pollution controls. A major component salvaged from that system was in turn used to upgrade and increase the power output from one of two remaining 44-megawatt units fired by natural gas. Gov. Jack Markell’s administration chipped in \$500,000 for the project from a fund created in 2011 to curb energy use and create jobs – in this case 75 construction jobs and strengthening of support for longer term employment at the site. “We realized that with just a little, small investment from the state, we could actually make the numbers work really well,” Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary Collin P. O’Mara said, “and it just kept getting better and better, because it used natural gas, gave you emissions reductions and avoided a regulatory fight.”

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC RADIO

Investigation continues into gas well explosion

The Department of Environmental Protection is awaiting information from a gas well operator in Doddridge County, into what caused an explosion there a few weeks ago. The Department of Environmental Protection won't allow work to resume at a well pad in Doddridge County until Antero Resources provides specific information to the agency. By the end of the month, Antero Resources must submit that report to the DEP. That information includes an explanation as to what caused the incident, a list of safeguard measures the company will utilize to stop future incidents, and proof that pollutants didn't contaminate the site. One of the 5 injured workers in the explosion died from his injuries this week. Kathy Cosco is a spokeswoman for the DEP. "Somehow vapors in a tank on the pad ignited. One of the things that we, and OSHA and the company itself are trying to determine is how that happened. Initially, the DEP thought it might be a pump that was malfunctioning, that may have been the ignition source. Upon further review, that really wasn't conclusive to us," said Cosco. Cosco says when DEP inspectors reached the site, following the July 7th explosion its assessment of what might have happened changed.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as Antero Resources, are also looking investigating what happened. "We really don't have a role in the worker safety aspect of it, they really falls to OSHA. We get involved in what causes these things because if we can in the permits that we issue in the future, address what happened, then perhaps we can be a part of the prevention of that in the future," said Cosco.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. VA.)

Drilling starts in Greene County for Devonian shale

Move aside, Marcellus and Utica shales, and make way for a new player in the natural gas bonanza: the Devonian Shale. Earlier this month, Consol Energy became the third company to successfully extract natural gas from the Devonian, following Rex Energy Corp. and Range Resources Corp. The company's drilling attempt took place in Greene County, which lies on the eastern border of Marshall County and the northeastern border of Wetzel County. Tim Carr, Marshall Miller professor of energy at West Virginia University, said the Upper Devonian is a mix of sandstone and other forms of rock. It lies just above the Marcellus Shale, which underlies much of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Utica Shale is a much older formation that lies deeper within the earth compared to the Marcellus and Upper Devonian, he said. "There are lots of black shale units," Carr said regarding the Upper Devonian Shale. "How much gas and liquids is the question. There is no answer at the present. There is potential." "The Devonian Shale was the target of a lot of drilling activity back in the late 1970s and the 1980s," added Robert W. Chase, professor of petroleum engineering and geology at Marietta College. "It produced both oil and gas, but was not as prolific as the Marcellus or Utica because it was not very deep and didn't have as much pressure as the deeper formations." Consol's first endeavor into the formation hit the Upper Devonian at 12,490 feet deep in Greene County, according to the company's quarterly filing report. It drew about 3 million cubic feet per day, roughly a third of the output of two nearby Marcellus wells. Consol drilled its Upper Devonian Shale well in the Burkett formation, which is the deepest of numerous Upper Devonian shales. Consol officials said they chose to drill their first well in the Burkett in order to test the potential interaction with deeper Marcellus Shale wells. Corky Demarco, executive director of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association, said most of the Upper Devonian wells drilled in the Mountain State have largely resulted in the production of dry methane gas, rather than liquids or oil. He said it is "considerably" cheaper to drill an Upper Devonian well because it is not as deep or complex as one in the Marcellus or Utica. Instead of millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals, Demarco said Upper Devonian wells in West Virginia are usually fracked with hydrogen.

Federal aid granted for W.Va. storm recovery

Two West Virginia counties are getting federal assistance to help with recovery and repair efforts following the mid-June storms that resulted in flooding, landslides and mudslides. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said Friday that public assistance funding will be available for Mason and Roane counties under the federal disaster declaration. The declaration provides assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of public facilities. Tomblin had requested a federal disaster declaration for six West Virginia counties on July 12th. The federal government has not approved the public assistance request for Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, and Lewis counties. And a request for individual assistance for Roane County residents is still under review.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Pesticides, fungicides harming bee colonies, UM study says Honey bees responsible for pollinating crops worth billions of dollars are under attack from a cocktail of pesticides and fungicides that weaken colonies and make them susceptible to other predators, according to a study by the University of Maryland and federal agriculture researchers. The report, issued this week, said contaminated pollen from seven different test crops on the East Coast reduced the ability of healthy bees to fend off a parasite called *Nosema ceranae*. The parasite impairs the digestion of pollen and bees starve to death. "Our results show that beekeepers need to consider not only pesticide regimens of the fields in which they are placing their bees, but also spray programs near those fields that may contribute to pesticide drift onto weeds," the study said.

Maryland's climate opportunity

The dog days of summer are upon us, and most Marylanders are more inclined to reach for beach-friendly paperbacks than a 265-page treatise on climate change. That's a shame, because the latest effort to address greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland — an ambitious plan released last week by Gov. Martin O'Malley — ought to be required reading, particularly by those who dismiss such efforts as too costly or unnecessary. Here's the CliffsNotes version: Climate change is real, it's accelerating, it's potentially disastrous, and Maryland, with its hundreds of miles of coastline, wetlands and coastal development, is more vulnerable than most. The question is not so much whether the state should take aggressive action but how best to meet some reasonable goals. In releasing this latest plan — a road map to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 — Governor O'Malley described the work as "hard ... life-and-death hard." He's absolutely correct. None of it will be easy, certain sectors of the economy will feel the pinch more than others, and it would be far less aggravating for Maryland to let others make the needed sacrifices first. But to choose inaction because neighboring states aren't doing as much to reduce emissions (or even because neighboring countries aren't) would be the equivalent of not bailing out a sinking life raft because the other occupants are too slow to do the same. You don't wait, and you don't crow about moral victories or leadership (sorry, environmental community); you do it because you don't want to drown — or for the next generation destined for the raft to drown either. But here's the other point made clearly by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan: This is not a matter of picking your poison or choosing whom to sacrifice, it's actually a potential win-win for Maryland. While it's true that some businesses will face higher costs, the net effect of reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be more jobs and a boost to Maryland's economy.

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

Middle school "Green Team" wins video contest (Friday) The Green Team at Walker Mill Middle School in Capitol Heights was awarded the top prize in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Litter Prevention Video Contest for its Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative, which helped increase awareness for Potomac Watershed pollution, according to a foundation statement. The initiative coincided with the 25th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup, where volunteers worked to remove trash and debris from the river, according to the statement. "These catalyst events in the spring, Litter Enforcement Month and the Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, create momentum toward solutions to the trash problem by greatly increasing public awareness of the problem," said Laura Chamberlin, initiative program manager in the statement.

MARYLAND REPORTER

Rising Seas Part 1: Sea level, sinking land put Maryland's waterfront communities at risk

Noah Bradshaw knows what the rising waters of the Chesapeake Bay can do to a community. The 68-year-old city inspector grew up in a house in town that had been moved from nearby Holland Island a century ago. "Holland Island is gone," Bradshaw said. "It's underwater." The last house disappeared into the bay two years ago, marking the demise of an island once 5 miles long and home to a fishing community of 300 residents. Now, rising sea levels and sinking land, the same forces that doomed the island, threaten Crisfield, its seafood industry and its 2,710 residents. And a newly discovered tidal pattern puts them in greater peril than previously known. "This is our home, and eventually, this will be underwater," said Bradshaw, a bespectacled, balding man with a white beard. "We know that, because the sea level is rising." Scientists say

sea levels around the world are rising, that storms are intensifying due to climate change, and that policymakers need to make tough decisions on where to spend limited resources to protect the shoreline and what to let go.

WASHINGTON POST

Maryland and Virginia residents say harm from climate change is arriving

Roughly half of Virginians and 65 percent of Marylanders believe climate change is causing harm or will do so in the next 10 years (locally and/or nationally) according to two recent surveys. The Maryland survey reports 52 percent of residents believe that the U.S. has already been harmed by climate change and another 13 percent expect climate change to harm Americans within 10 years. By comparison, in the Virginia survey, 49 percent of residents say they believe climate change is already harming the state or will do so in the next 10 years. The surveys were released last week by the George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication. The Maryland survey, Public Health, Energy and Climate Change, reveals beliefs on different environmental hazards the public may view as unhealthy whereas the Virginia survey, Perceptions of Weather and Climate Change in Virginia, more broadly explores attitudes about climate change and links to extreme weather. Maryland survey details - Of the 2,126 Marylanders who were polled in the survey, respondents viewed air pollution as the highest personal health risk, coming in ahead of chemicals, the flu, and even obesity. Climate change ranked eighth. Despite the relatively low ranking for climate change, over half of the adults surveyed believe that violent storms are becoming a health problem, and 48 percent believe climate change is increasing the risk. ... Virginia survey details - 2,000 Virginia residents were polled, with the overwhelming majority (85%) believing that climate change is happening, with 26 percent "extremely sure". While most Virginians believe climate change is occurring, their opinions about why it is occurring vary markedly. 36 percent of respondents believe that climate change is "caused more or less equally by human activities and changes in the environment." More people believe that climate change is caused mostly by humans (31%) compared to solely natural causes (22%).

VIRGINIA

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

Recycle, reuse, tax? Norfolk targets plastic bags (Friday) NORFOLK -- In an effort to slow landfill growth and protect 150 miles of coastline, city leaders have set their sights on a ubiquitous foe - the plastic bag. Norfolk is promoting reusable bags this fall in an effort to persuade residents to use fewer plastic bags, which are found everywhere from the grocery store to the sandwich shop. Norfolk backed a state Senate bill this year that would have placed a 5-cent tax on bags to discourage their use. The city plans to support the measure again next year, according to a City Council memo. The council also tried to persuade the legislature to allow cities to impose bag taxes of their own. The city is focusing now on encouraging residents to recycle plastic bags or, better yet, carry reusable bags. In September, a new environmental task force will distribute reusables at grocery stores, give civic league presentations and teach lessons in city schools, said Stephen Leaman, task force chairman. Denise Thompson, environmental protection programs manager, said using alternatives would save the city money and protect its waterfront. The latter issue sparked Leaman's interest. He sees plastic bags all the time near his Willoughby Spit home. The task force estimates that 8 to 10 percent of all plastic bags end up littering roads and waterways, and Leaman said a tax - or an outright ban - might be needed to get that percentage down to zero. A bag tax would first need an OK from the General Assembly, then the public's support and, finally, council approval. The idea hasn't fared well in Richmond, said John Deuel, executive director of Keep Norfolk Beautiful. And already, it has picked up some local opposition, including from the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. "The chamber has been opposed to a plastic bag tax for quite some time," said Lisa Jones, its communications director. "It adds to the price of groceries, and the tax is passed on to the consumer."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (VA.)

Eagle pairs along James River skyrocketing in Va. RICHMOND-- A new survey shows that the bald eagle population in the James River region has topped 200 pairs for the first time since good written accounts began in the 1930s. The survey was done by the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William & Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University earlier this year. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that the survey found 205 eagle pairs along the James. That's more than

triple the 56 pairs in 2000. The head of the conservation center and eagle expert Bryan Watts says there were just 33 pairs of eagles in Virginia in 1977. Along the James, there were zero. Today, a nearly 40-mile tidal, freshwater stretch of the James harbors one of the country's top concentrations of eagles, herons and other fish-eating birds. Watts and other scientists conducted a survey of James River eagles by air in March and May, and tallied the figures this past weekend. "The dramatic recovery reflects the resiliency of both the bald eagle and James River," Watts said. "The James River population represents the best example of bald eagle recovery in the nation." Barbara Slatcher, a Hanover County birdwatcher, said it's still a "rare treat" to see an eagle in the Richmond metro area. But if you are in a boat around Hopewell, she said, "they are flush with eagles." While the James is a major hotspot for them, eagles are flourishing across the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. Watts said there are an estimated 1,600 to 2,000 pairs in the region, including Virginia and Maryland. That equates to about 20,000 birds altogether, including youngsters that haven't built nests. "That's why people are seeing eagles more and more," Watts said. "It's hard to hide 20,000 eagles."

WASHINGTON POST

Former aircraft parts plant site in Va. to be cleaned up, EPA assessing contaminants

Federal regulators are assessing contaminants at the site of a former aircraft parts manufacturer near the Charlottesville Albemarle Airport. Toxic chemical solvents have been found in soil and groundwater at the site and in the Walnut Hills subdivision. The Environmental Protection Agency plans an 18-month investigation to determine the contamination's scope. Project manager Donna McCartney tells The Daily Progress (<http://bit.ly/14XycB1>) that field work at the site is expected to be completed in August. The plant formerly was owned by Teledyne. Its current owner, Avionics Specialties Inc., discovered the contamination in 2007 as it was preparing to close the plant and sell it. Walnut Hills Homeowners Association president Michael Kane says the problem should have been remedied in 2007.

Maryland and Virginia residents say harm from climate change is arriving

Roughly half of Virginians and 65 percent of Marylanders believe climate change is causing harm or will do so in the next 10 years (locally and/or nationally) according to two recent surveys. The Maryland survey reports 52 percent of residents believe that the U.S. has already been harmed by climate change and another 13 percent expect climate change to harm Americans within 10 years. By comparison, in the Virginia survey, 49 percent of residents say they believe climate change is already harming the state or will do so in the next 10 years. The surveys were released last week by the George Mason Center for Climate Change Communication. The Maryland survey, Public Health, Energy and Climate Change, reveals beliefs on different environmental hazards the public may view as unhealthy whereas the Virginia survey, Perceptions of Weather and Climate Change in Virginia, more broadly explores attitudes about climate change and links to extreme weather. Maryland survey details - Of the 2,126 Marylanders who were polled in the survey, respondents viewed air pollution as the highest personal health risk, coming in ahead of chemicals, the flu, and even obesity. Climate change ranked eighth. Despite the relatively low ranking for climate change, over half of the adults surveyed believe that violent storms are becoming a health problem, and 48 percent believe climate change is increasing the risk. ... Virginia survey details - 2,000 Virginia residents were polled, with the overwhelming majority (85%) believing that climate change is happening, with 26 percent "extremely sure". While most Virginians believe climate change is occurring, their opinions about why it is occurring vary markedly. 36 percent of respondents believe that climate change is "caused more or less equally by human activities and changes in the environment." More people believe that climate change is caused mostly by humans (31%) compared to solely natural causes (22%).

MISCELLANEOUS

GREENWIRE

EPA identifies 29 nonattainment areas for SO2 standard (Friday) U.S. EPA has designated 29 areas in 16 states as "nonattainment" areas for being in violation of the national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide. The areas were found to be in violation of the 2010 SO2 rule, which set a limit of 75 parts per billion averaged over an hour. Those areas must now develop a state implementation plan within 18 months to reduce the pollution and get below the standard. In most areas, EPA said it has already accepted state recommendations. SO2, an air pollutant linked to outdoor haze and acid rain, can

aggravate asthma and other respiratory problems. The nonattainment areas were spread across 16 states but had a heavy concentration in the Midwest. Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana each had five nonattainment areas, while Illinois had four, Missouri two and Iowa one. The designations came amid a potentially controversial change in EPA implementation, in which the agency indicated it would back away from its policy of relying mostly on computer modeling in favor of monitors. The "dual-pathway" model, which incorporates both computer modeling and monitors, created concern among some environmentalists about less accurate readings (*E&ENews PM*, Feb. 8). The monitors give more accurate readings but are more expensive and have limited availability, while computer modeling allows air agencies to use emissions data from previous years to characterize current air quality and estimate pollution in areas that may not have monitors.

AL: Court rejects mining company's bid for rehearing on EPA veto case (Friday) Federal judges yesterday denied a request from Arch Coal Inc. to rehear a case that upheld U.S. EPA's ability to retroactively veto Clean Water Act permits. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejected Arch's petition for a rehearing *en banc*, meaning before all the circuit's judges. The closely watched case hinged on whether EPA had authority to issue its 2011 veto of an Army Corps of Engineers 2007 permit for Arch's Spruce No. 1 mine in Logan County, W.Va. EPA has rarely used such authority, and the move was widely applauded by environmentalists because the Spruce mine is one of the largest mountaintop-removal projects ever proposed. Industry criticized the decision, arguing that it creates tremendous uncertainty surrounding their permits

Lingering contamination in Erin Brockovich town prompts new lawsuit Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has failed to clean up the groundwater beneath a small California town in the Mojave Desert after losing a settlement to the town's residents 17 years ago, leaving the utility open to another lawsuit. Led by a then-little-known law clerk named Erin Brockovich, a group of 636 Hinkley residents sued the utility and won a \$333 million settlement in 1996. And now, Hinkley residents who weren't part of the original suit have filed a new lawsuit against PG&E, saying the utility has left their homes worthless. "These guys are in the middle of the desert, and they're wholly dependent on well water -- there's no option," said Javier van Oordt, an attorney at the Santa Ana law firm handling the case. "I can say with a fair amount of confidence that nobody but PG&E is buying property out there right now." So far, the utility has purchased 130 properties from residents fleeing the town, which recently lost the only school it had. The pipeline, which started leaking a decade ago, carries natural gas from Texas to the Bay Area.

FOX NEWS

Coal industry threatened by stringent new EPA standards

The next time you turn on a light, ride an elevator or charge up your cell phone, you might want to thank John Toth or 86,000 others like him still working today to dig the coal that fuels 40 percent of the electricity in the most productive nation ever. Toth, a heavy-set West Virginian, toiled for over 25 years as a miner and a worker in other coal related industries. He bears the scars - short of breath and hard of hearing from loud machinery - but laments the demise of America's most abundant source of energy. "My son makes his living by doing some contracting work in coal industry. I have a couple grandchildren, one going to West Virginia University to get a mining engineering degree. Hopefully the coal industry will be around," he says. But the warning signs are ominous. On the far bank of the Ohio River, across from Moundsville, West Virginia where we interviewed Toth, sits the Burger Power plant. Once a source of tremendous tax revenue for the Shady Side Ohio, it now sits idle, as do 130 others, or one-sixth of the coal-fired plants in the U.S. Most are victims of stringent new EPA regulations that sealed their fate. The Obama administration has rejected accusations it has launched a "war on coal." But it presses ahead with yet more carbon regulation. In a speech at Georgetown University on June 25, President Obama said, "I am directing the Environmental Protection Agency to put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution from our power plants and complete new pollution standards for both new and existing power plants." Those new "Source Performance Standards" to further limit greenhouse gases threaten the industry. The proposed rules provoked 23 coal-state members of Congress to sign a letter to Obama this week accusing him of "circumventing the will of Congress, which has repeatedly voted against carbon regulations." Moundsville bears the effects of the EPA's enforcement. The town shows the tell-tale marks of unemployment, struggling businesses, and a lower tax base. "The plants are assessed a fee, they're taxed on the value of the plant," says David Evans, a state delegate from Marshall County. He says local schools suffer from the precipitous plunge in tax revenues. Phillip Remke owns a small medical supply store in Moundsville. His advice for anyone in the mining business? "Don't buy any car, don't put money down on houses or anything because these regulations coming in could be a big factor in our community. Our small towns that actually built this country will hurt desperately." But even in the heart of coal country, opinions are changing. Mindy Spaar, whose father worked in the mines, said over lunch in a downtown cafe, "I believe the EPA needs more enforcement, I believe that our resources are being

ruined around here, and we're producing more coal than we ever have." Indeed, U.S. exports of coal are increasing dramatically, doubling from 60 million tons a year at the start of the Obama administration, to 120 million tons today. That statistic is rich with irony. Regulations are forcing the retirement of domestic plants, while exports of U.S. coal are fueling America's competitors, like China, who often burn U.S. coal without the pollution controls required here. But U.S. exports, too, may be threatened. The export terminals where coal is put on ships are permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers, not by the EPA. Environmentalists are putting tremendous pressure on the Obama administration to limit exports. If successful, it may ultimately mean the end of the fuel that powered America.

NEW YORK TIMES

After Delayed Vote, E.P.A. Gains a Tough Leader to Tackle Climate Change

When Lisa P. Jackson announced at the end of last year that she was stepping down as the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, President Obama faced a choice. He could play it safe by appointing her deputy or he could confront Congress head-on and signal a strong commitment to tackling climate change by appointing the agency's head of air quality, Gina McCarthy. "Why would you want me?" Ms. McCarthy said she asked the president when he offered her the top job. "Do you realize the rules I've done over the past three or four years?" Ms. McCarthy, an earthy, tough-talking New Englander who drew criticism as the head of the agency's air and radiation office during Mr. Obama's first term, then ticked off a list of controversial air pollution regulations she had helped write: tough greenhouse gas standards for vehicles, a tighter ozone limit that the White House rejected, the first rule on mercury emissions from power plants, and a regulation on smokestack pollution that crosses state lines, which has been blocked by a federal court. She warned that earning confirmation from the Senate might be difficult and that safer choices were available. The president told Ms. McCarthy that his environmental and presidential legacy would be incomplete without a serious effort to address climate change. "I'm so glad he said that, because if he hadn't, I wouldn't have wanted this job," she said. "It's an issue I've worked on for so many years, and it just can't wait." Mr. Obama's decision to nominate Ms. McCarthy, 59, was an act of defiance to Congressional and industry opponents of meaningful action on climate change. It was also a sign of his determination to at least begin to put in place rules to reduce carbon pollution. Ms. McCarthy was right about her confirmation. She was flooded with more than 1,000 questions from Senate Republicans, who held up a confirmation vote for 136 days, one of the longest delays of any of Mr. Obama's senior nominees. She finally won approval on July 18 on a 59-to-40 vote, as part of a deal reached after Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, threatened to change Senate rules to prevent filibusters on executive branch nominations.

Gangplank to a Warm Future

MANY concerned about climate change, including President Obama, have embraced hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. In his recent climate speech, the president went so far as to lump gas with renewables as "clean energy." As a longtime oil and gas engineer who helped develop shale fracking techniques for the Energy Department, I can assure you that this gas is not "clean." Because of leaks of methane, the main component of natural gas, the gas extracted from shale deposits is not a "bridge" to a renewable energy future — it's a gangplank to more warming and away from clean energy investments. Methane is a far more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, though it doesn't last nearly as long in the atmosphere. Still, over a 20-year period, one pound of it traps as much heat as at least 72 pounds of carbon dioxide. Its potency declines, but even after a century, it is at least 25 times as powerful as carbon dioxide. When burned, natural gas emits half the carbon dioxide of coal, but methane leakage eviscerates this advantage because of its heat-trapping power. And methane is leaking, though there is significant uncertainty over the rate. But recent measurements by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at gas and oil fields in California, Colorado and Utah found leakage rates of 2.3 percent to 17 percent of annual production, in the range my colleagues at Cornell and I predicted some years ago. This is the gas that is released into the atmosphere unburned as part of the hydraulic fracturing process, and also from pipelines, compressors and processing units. Those findings raise questions about what is happening elsewhere. The Environmental Protection Agency has issued new rules to reduce these emissions, but the rules don't take effect until 2015, and apply only to new wells. A 2011 study from the National Center for Atmospheric Research concluded that unless leaks can be kept below 2 percent, gas lacks any climate advantage over coal. And a study released this May by Climate Central, a group of scientists and journalists studying climate change, concluded that the 50 percent climate advantage of natural gas over coal is unlikely to be achieved over the next three to four decades. Unfortunately, we don't have that long to address climate change — the next two decades are crucial. To its credit, the president's plan recognizes that "curbing emissions of methane is critical." However, the release of unburned gas in the production process is not the only problem. Gas and oil wells that lose their structural integrity also leak methane and other contaminants outside their casings and into the atmosphere and water wells. Multiple industry studies show that about 5 percent of all oil and gas wells leak immediately

because of integrity issues, with increasing rates of leakage over time. With hundreds of thousands of new wells expected, this problem is neither negligible nor preventable with current technology. Why do so many wells leak this way? Pressures under the earth, temperature changes, ground movement from the drilling of nearby wells and shrinkage crack and damage the thin layer of brittle cement that is supposed to seal the wells. And getting the cement perfect as the drilling goes horizontally into shale is extremely challenging.

Obama Says He'll Evaluate Pipeline Project Depending on Pollution

President Obama said in an interview that he would evaluate construction of the Keystone XL pipeline on the basis of whether it would significantly contribute carbon to the atmosphere. But he mocked Republicans' arguments that the approval of the pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast, would create many jobs in the United States. "Republicans have said that this would be a big jobs generator," Mr. Obama said in an interview with The New York Times. "There is no evidence that that's true. The most realistic estimates are this might create maybe 2,000 jobs during the construction of the pipeline, which might take a year or two, and then after that we're talking about somewhere between 50 and 100 jobs in an economy of 150 million working people." He said 2,000 jobs were "a blip relative to the need." The president also disputed the argument that the pipeline would help lower retail gasoline prices. He said most of the oil would be destined for refineries on the Gulf Coast and then exported. In fact, he said, the pipeline might increase prices somewhat in the Midwest, which would suddenly be able to ship more of its oil to other parts of the world. But Mr. Obama suggested that he was also open to ways to ease concerns about the pipeline's environmental impact. In previous remarks, Mr. Obama has said he will approve the pipeline only if it does not "significantly exacerbate" the problem of carbon pollution. In the interview, Mr. Obama said it was possible that Canada could "potentially be doing more to mitigate carbon release."

Europe and China Agree to Settle Solar Panel Fight

The European Union's trade chief said on Saturday that a deal had been reached with China to settle a dispute over exports of low-cost solar panels that had threatened to set off a wider trade war between two of the world's largest economies. The settlement essentially involves setting a fairly high minimum price for sales of Chinese-made solar panels in the European Union to try to prevent them from undercutting European producers. Those producers accused Chinese manufacturers of benefiting from enormous loans from state-owned banks and other government assistance that enabled them to charge prices that would otherwise be uneconomical. "We have found an amicable solution that will result in a new equilibrium on the European solar panel market at a sustainable price level," Karel De Gucht, the European trade commissioner, said in a statement. The deal immediately met with ferocious criticism from the European manufacturers that had filed the complaint, and it complicates a similar dispute between the United States and China. Mr. De Gucht's decision in June to carry out his threat to impose tariffs on solar panels from China generated significant fears within the union about retribution from China. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany called for further negotiations to avoid harm to German exporters. European importers of solar products from China also opposed the tariffs.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Six dolphin deaths under investigation in N.J.

Why did six dolphins die and wash up along the Jersey Shore over the past week? Officials are using science to unravel the mystery. The first dolphin was found July 18 at Long Beach Township and two more were discovered Monday in Holgate and Barnegat Light. Another two turned up Wednesday in Holgate and Ocean City, and the last washed up Thursday at Ship Bottom. The causes of the deaths will not be known until officials have the results of necropsies, said Bob Schoelkopf, founding director of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine. That information is expected to begin coming in Monday. "Every year we have dolphin deaths," Schoelkopf said. "We won't speculate on a cause until the lab results come back." Schoelkopf said that sending the dolphins for necropsies is normal any time large marine animals are found. Though dolphin and other marine animal deaths are not uncommon, experts say it is unusual for so many to wash up in such a short time. "If it continues like this, we'll definitely investigate more," said Mendy Garron, a regional marine-mammal stranding coordinator with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. If the dolphins died of disease, a pathologist can study tissue samples and determine whether the disease was viral or bacterial. "It's a very tiered approach," Garron said.

Plan to put gas pipeline in Pinelands spurs ire

A proposal to build a natural gas pipeline across 14 miles of the New Jersey Pinelands drew an angry crowd Friday to the

Pinelands Commission's offices in Pemberton, where dozens of speakers urged commissioners to veto the plan. "Put a stake through the heart of this monster," Victor Maene of the environmental group 350.ORG told the commission's policy and implementation committee. South Jersey Gas Corp., based in Atlantic County, seeks to run a 22-mile natural gas pipeline from Maurice River Township, Cumberland County, to a proposed electrical-generation plant in Upper Township, Cape May County. Most of the line would run along the right-of-way of Route 49, buried under the road or grass shoulder. Eight miles would be outside the Pinelands, a 1.1 million expanse of protected pine and oak forest and sandy soil that is home to an 17-trillion-gallon aquifer. The 24-inch-diameter pipe would serve a proposed gas-fired power plant at Beesleys Point on the Great Egg Harbor River to be operated by B.L. England Corp. (BLE).